

From: Eoc, Epahq [Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov]
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EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Tropical Storm Harvey - UPDATE #10

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Report as of August 30, 2017 at 12:00 EDT**

Overview: Tropical Storm Harvey was located about 5 miles west of Cameron, Louisiana moving northeast at 7 miles per hour (mph) with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph. On the forecast track, the center of Harvey will move across the lower Mississippi Valley and Tennessee Valley through 8/31. Harvey is expected to produce additional rainfall accumulations of 3 to 6 inches from southwestern Louisiana and the adjacent border of eastern Texas northeastward into western Kentucky through 9/1, with isolated amounts up to 10 inches. While the threat of heavy rains has ended in the Houston and Galveston area, catastrophic and life-threatening flooding will continue in and around Houston eastward into southwestern Louisiana for the rest of the week.

The expected heavy rains spreading northeastward from Louisiana into western Kentucky may also lead to flash flooding and increased river and small stream flooding. Catastrophic and life-threatening flooding continues in southeastern Texas and portions of southwestern Louisiana. A Storm Surge Warning is in effect for Holly Beach, Louisiana to Morgan City, Louisiana. A Storm Surge Watch is in effect for east of High Island, Texas to west of Holly Beach, Louisiana. A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for east of High Island, Texas to Grand Isle, Louisiana.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) has activated the NRCC at Level 1 with all Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) and Liaison Officers (LNOs). FEMA has also deployed their National IMAT West and East-1 teams and Regional IMATs (R-II, R-V, R-VII, and R-III) to Texas. FEMA's Region VI RRCC is also at Level 1. The Texas, Louisiana and New Orleans EOCs are at full activation. The Texas and Louisiana National Guards have been activated.

EPA Actions:

EPA Region 6:

The Region 6 Emergency Operations Center is currently activated and is working under a limited FEMA Disaster Declaration Mission Assignment (MA). In addition, EPA has received an MA to assist the State of Texas with drinking water, wastewater and Hazmat recovery operations.

Texas

Region 6 deployed two On-Scene Coordinators (OSC) on Friday (August 25) in support of the State through this ESF. One OSC deployed to the FEMA Regional Response Center in Denton, Texas and the second OSC to the State of Texas Operations Center in Austin, Texas.

Region 6 is monitoring a situation at the Arkema Facility in Crosby, Texas. The facility is without power and has lost their backup power source for one of the containers. The contents of that container are approaching auto-ignition temperatures and could potentially detonate. The area has been evacuated due to flooding, and local first responders are in the area conducting search and rescue. Region 6 is working with the Department of Homeland Security to develop plume modeling to provide to local responders.

EPA, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Texas General Land Office (TGLO) and US Coast Guard are operating in Unified Command. Four National Incident Management Team members are in Corpus Christi, Texas on August 30, 2016 to establish the Unified Command Center. On August 30, 2017 the Unified Command will have seven teams in the field conducting reconnaissance. The teams will consist of TCEQ, Civil Support Core, EPA, and a Coast Guard strike team.

An EPA Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) vehicle is enroute from North Carolina to assist with air monitoring in the impacted areas throughout Texas and is scheduled to arrive by September 1. Colorado PHILIS mobile units will be deploying to Corpus Christi. ASPECT has been deployed to assess the conditions at the Arkema chemical facility in Crosby. The aircraft flew August 30 and gathered data that is now being processed. ASPECT will then proceed to Corpus Christi to assist with response activities.

Louisiana

On August 28, 2017, EPA participated in an ESF-10 call with Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ). LDEQ Southwest Regional office reported localized flooding particularly around Cameron Parish and the Lake Charles/ Sulphur area. LDEQ reports that there are no boil water notices currently in the state. LDEQ reports it has made contact with radiation licensees and reports all sources have been accounted.

Industrial Sources

EPA is working with TCEQ to contact industrial sources within the impacted area to determine their operational status and what support can be provided with the monitoring of the start-up of industrial sources along the coast of Texas. EPA is mobilizing additional personnel to Austin to support the state in this effort.

On August 29, TCEQ reported that Valero's Corpus Christi refinery will begin start-up operations over the next four to six days (approximately September 3). During this start-up procedure they will be running at 60% capacity.

Surface Water Quality Monitoring

EPA has drafted an incident-specific surface and flood water sampling plan to address public health concerns regarding possible contaminants found in storm water.

Drinking Water / Wastewater Assessments

The EPA Region 6 Drinking and Wastewater Team will mobilize to Corpus Christi, Texas to assist with drinking water and waste water field assessments on August 31, 2017. One Water Infrastructure team consisting of two TCEQ staff is slated to visit two systems based on information developed by the TCEQ/EPA call bank in

Austin, TX. EPA is supporting TCEQ in contacting drinking water and waste water systems. EPA deployed 10 personnel to assist TCEQ's Drinking Water and Waste Water Phone Bank located in Austin, Texas.

Conditions are being monitored at the Houston Northeast Water Purification Plant. The plant is experiencing flood conditions which may overtop the facility. As of 1000 EDT, the plant was operating and maintaining sufficient pressure to keep the system charged and deliver water. They will have pumps/hoses and more diesel delivered this morning. No corrective action can be taken should the facility overtop. The facility would have to go offline until the flood waters recede to the point to allow for re-energizing. This facility is the largest water treatment plant in the City of Houston. George Bush International Airport is dependent upon this facility. The State and FEMA are aware of the situation and will support and provided assets as needed to support the facility.

EPA Laboratory/ Analytical Services

The Houston laboratory is reporting that they will be closed until September 5. The laboratory and office buildings are not damaged. EPA has back up capabilities for laboratory services should the Houston facility remain closed.

PHILIS is enroute from Denver, Colorado to the Corpus Christi area. The anticipated arrival in Corpus Christi is September 1, 2017. The mobile laboratory will be used to process environmental samples.

Data Management

Region 6 activated the National Data team to provide support data management activities in Corpus Christi. Two Data Team members have been deployed and are expected to arrive in Corpus Christi by September 1, 2017.

Communications

EPA is fully integrated into the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA communication structure and management, and participates in the daily National Incident Communication Conference Line (NICCL) call. EPA has initiated its Crisis Communication Plan to ensure rapid response to providing coordinated, accurate, up-to-date information regarding its field activities. EPA Public Information Office will be established in Dallas with forward field components as needed to support the HQ Office of Public Affairs.

Refineries/Fuel Waivers

The EPA received and approved a fuel waiver request from Louisiana to waive low Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) fuel for Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge (Baton Rouge Ozone Nonattainment Area), Beauregard, Calcasieu, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lafourche, Orleans, Point Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, and St. Mary Parishes.

On August 29, EPA approved an additional fuel waiver request from the State of Texas regarding the use of Red Dyed 15ppm Non-Road Diesel Locomotive and Marine Fuel in on-road applications.

EPA Office of Emergency Management (OEM):

The HQ EOC activated on August 28 and is at Level 1 operations. The HQ EOC is coordinating on several levels with Region 6 and other Federal Agencies. The HQ EOC has deployed personnel to the FEMA NRCC to staff the ESF #10 Watch.

Media Interest: High

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/hurricane-harvey/harvey-already-landmark-event-still-going-strong-threatens-round-two-n796976?cid=par-nbc_20170829

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/08/29/harvey-floodwaters-overflow-houston-reservoir-separate-levee-breach-reported.html>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2017/08/30/harvey-again-makes-landfall-this-time-as-a-tropical-storm-near- Cameron-la/?hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main_harvey-blurb-desktop-tablet%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm_term=.b5547e2f65f9

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/29/us/hurricane-harvey-storm-flooding.html?action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=span-abc-region®ion=span-abc-region&WT.nav=span-abc-region>

Note: The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed

Peter Oh & Michael Faulkner, Senior Watch Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Headquarters Emergency Operations Center
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20004
202-564-3850
<mailto:eoc.epahq@epa.gov>